

US 421 Bridge in Harlan County Named in Memory of Transportation Cabinet Employee Barry G. Hobbs



Left: The “Barry G. Hobbs Bridge” sign was unveiled and installed on the bridge immediately following the ceremony.

Right L to R: Glen Durham, David Fuson, Harlan Resident Engineer; Jim Roddy, Magistrate; Marcie Mathews, State Highway Engineer; Claude & Margaret Hobbs, Greene Keith, Chief District Engineer; and Joe Grieshop, Co. Judge Exec.

On a beautiful sunny day in April, state and local officials as well as family and friends gathered in Harlan County at the US 421 bridge that spans KY 1566 near Cawood for a ceremony to name the bridge for Barry G. Hobbs. Hobbs, a transportation cabinet employee, was fatally injured in an auto crash on February 11, 2003.

The ceremony, held at the bridge site, was hosted by Greene Keith, District 11 Chief District Engineer. State Highway Engineer Marcie Mathews presented a framed copy of the official order to Hobbs’s parents, Claude and Margaret Hobbs. David Fuson, resident engineer for the Harlan Co. crew spoke of how

dependable Hobbs was and the pride he took in the work he did for the cabinet.

Hobbs’s former co-workers initially planted a tree in his honor at their office and later decided to request this bridge be dedicated to Hobbs. The bridge was one of the many projects Hobbs was involved in during his career. He began working for the Transportation Cabinet on June 1, 1992 and transferred to the District 7 office in Lexington February 1, 1999. Hobbs returned to the District 11 Harlan County Residents crew on June 16, 2002.



Honoring Victims of Traffic Accidents

The 985 persons who lost their lives in 2005 on Kentucky highways were remembered at the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet central office in Frankfort near Memorial Day. Transportation Secretary Bill Nighbert added a bronze plate with the 2005 number “985” to the monument, the highest since 1973. Permanent monuments to remember the persons who lost their lives are located at eight welcome centers throughout the state, the rest area at Slade and in front of the Kentucky Transportation headquarters in Frankfort. Numbers of fatalities for the previous nine years are also listed on the plaque.